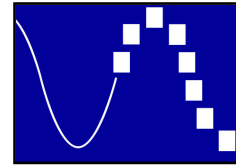


June 8, 2006



EX PARTE

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45; In the Matter of IP-Enabled Services, WC Docket No. 04-36

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On June 6, 2006, the Voice on the Net (VON) Coalition met with Commissioner Robert McDowell and legal advisor Dana Shaffer. In attendance for the VON Coalition were Jim Kohlenberger, VON Coalition Executive Director and Staci Pies, PointOne.

The purpose of the meetings was to discuss proposed changes to the Universal Service Fund contribution methodology and specifically, the May 30, 2006 Verizon *ex parte* suggesting that the FCC assess a revenues-based contribution on interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers.

During the meetings, the VON Coalition expressed its long-standing support for comprehensive universal service contribution reform adopting a mechanism based on either working telephone numbers or connections. The Coalition expressed its concern that any interim measures that continue to rely on an assessment of revenues will not make up for the loss to the fund caused by the expiration of DSL contributions, could delay comprehensive reform by requiring two fundamental shifts in tracking and billing practices for VoIP providers, and importantly, will harm the very consumers it seeks to benefit by increasing the cost of affordable alternatives to traditional phone service. It is critical, therefore, that to ensure that every American can benefit from broadband communications choices, the Commission avoid ineffective interim measures and instead, quickly move to modernize our universal service system and establish a numbers or connections-based contribution approach that will be equitable, understandable, easy to administer and will ensure the sustainability of the fund.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter is being filed via ECFS with your office.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Staci L. Pies
President, The VON Coalition

cc: Dana Shaffer